



CHRIS ABELE, MILWAUKEE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
JOHN DARGLE, JR., DIRECTOR OF PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE

Contact: Jeff Baudry
(414) 257-4575
Jeffrey.Baudry@milwaukeecountywi.gov

Parks Department Offers Citizen-Science Wetland-Monitoring Program *Free training for volunteers*

Milwaukee, WI (Aug. 12, 2014) – Would-be volunteers for the Milwaukee County Parks Citizen-Science Wetland-Monitoring Program are invited to attend a free orientation Wednesday, Sept. 24, from 6-8 p.m. at Wehr Nature Center. The Nature Center is located in Whitnall Park at 9701 W. College Ave.

After attending a free workshop in spring, volunteers will look for and document the presence and distribution of sensitive wildlife populations such as salamanders, frogs, toads, crayfish, fairy shrimp, and marsh birds. Data will be collected from ephemeral wetlands throughout the Park System in the Root River Watershed. This information will guide habitat-management activities within the Park System.

“Implementing a Citizen-based Wetland Monitoring Program in the Milwaukee County Park System to Document the Presence and Distribution of Sensitive Wildlife Populations” was among 22 projects selected through a competitive review by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Selected programs receive funding of up to \$5,000 per year. The Parks program, developed by Natural Areas staff, will receive the maximum award.

“We’re very pleased with the interest, variety and quality of projects proposed,” said Owen Boyle, coordinator of the Citizen-based Monitoring Program. “Those receiving awards will contribute valuable information about Wisconsin’s natural resources, support many DNR initiatives, and help stretch state dollars further.”

Since 2004, the DNR has helped fund 219 high-priority natural-resource monitoring projects through the Wisconsin Citizen-based Monitoring Partnership Program. Working with community and school groups, conservation organizations, and other agencies, the state is able to compile and analyze critical information on plants, animals, water, and other natural resources. Additional information on the Partnership Program is available at <http://wiatri.net/cbm/>.

For more about the Parks program or to register, contact Julia Robson, Assistant Natural Areas Coordinator, at (414) 257-8081 or julia.robson@milwaukeecountywi.gov or visit countyparks.com and search “Citizen Science Opportunities.” Registration must be received by Sept. 22, 2014.

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ADDRESS
9480 Watertown Plank Road
Wauwatosa, WI 53226-3560

PHONE/FAX
ph: **414 / 257 PARK** (7275)
fax: 414 / 257 6466

EMAIL
parks@milwcnty.com

WEBSITE
countyparks.com